



REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-29 are pending in the application.

At pages 2-3 of the Action, dated December 15, 2003, the Examiner discusses a restriction requirement. Applicant hereby elects of **Group I, claims 1-12, 13-24 and 27-28, with traverse**. The traversal is based on the fact that examination of all the claims would not be a burden on the Office despite their possible disparate classification(s).

Applicant is investigating inventorship to determine whether such should be amended in light of the elected claims. A timely Petition to change inventorship will be made if it is determined necessary.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements by the Examiner. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 512-457-7233) for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

No fee is due for filing this Reply because it is being filed with the shortened statutory period for response as set in the Office Action dated December 15, 2003.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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